after wound one or more times it is continuously wound towards the radially outside, but from a certain point, it separates from the previous winding and extends radially outwardly along the carcass ply main portion while contacting with an axially inside of the rubber bead apex, and

said securing portion is formed by this radially outwardly extending portion.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 7 are now in this application.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6/2 and 7/1 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 6/2 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 6 (amended).

Claim 7/1 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 7 (amended).

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iuchi '622 in view of Kuroda '169. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 and the limitations of the hardness of the fiber reinforced rubber spacer and a rubber layer 10. Iuchi '622 is silent about the hardness. Kuroda '169 is silent about the relationship between the hardness of the rubber R and that of the bead apex.

Claims 3 to 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iuchi '622 and Kuroda '169 as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Lejune '800. Reconsideration of the rejection of record is respectfully requested for the following reason.

Lejune '800 suggests that the stuffing rubber 10 is not harder than the apex rubber 12, and there is no suggestion that the rubber sheathing 11 is reinforced with fibers.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration of the rejections of record is respectfully requested and any early notice of allowance is earnest solicited.

Conclusion

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Mr. Joseph A. Kolasch, Registration No. 22,463 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of $920.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____
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JAK/ALB:bb
0229-0608P

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

(Rev. 02/06/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 2 to 5, 8, and 9 have been canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (amended) A pneumatic tire comprising

a pair of bead portions each provided therein with a bead core made of windings of at least one wire,

a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions and turned up around the bead core from the axially inside to the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a main portion therebetween,

a rubber bead apex disposed radially outside the bead core and between each said turnup portion and the main portion,

a fiber reinforced rubber spacer interposed between the bead core and the carcass ply to provide a positive distance between the carcass ply cords and bead core wire,

said fiber reinforced rubber spacer having a securing portion which extends radially outwardly and axially outwardly from the axially inside of the bead core while separating from the bead core but contacting with the rubber bead apex, and

a distance (L1, L2) between an outermost point of said securing portion and the bead core being in a range of from 0.05 to 1.0 times a height of the bead core, wherein

said fiber reinforced rubber spacer is made of a single rubber strip reinforced with organic fibers,

said single rubber strip is loosely wound at least once around the bead core to form a slack portion radially outside the bead core, and said securing portion is formed by the slack portion,

a rubber layer inserted between the slack portion and a radially outer face of the bead core is harder than the rubber bead apex.

6. (amended) ~~The~~ A pneumatic tire ~~according to claim 2~~ comprising

a pair of bead portions each provided therein with a bead core made of windings of at least one wire,

a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a main portion therebetween,

a rubber bead apex disposed radially outside the bead core and between each said turnup portion and the main portion,

a fiber reinforced rubber spacer interposed between the bead core and the carcass ply to provide a positive distance between the carcass ply cords and bead core wire,

said fiber reinforced rubber spacer having a securing portion which extends radially outwardly and axially outwardly from the axially inside of the bead core while separating from the bead core but contacting with the rubber bead apex, and

a distance (L1, L2) between an outermost point of said securing portion and the bead core being in a range of from 0.05 to 1.0 time a height of the bead core,

said fiber reinforced rubber spacer being made of a single rubber strip reinforced with organic fibers,

said single rubber strip loosely wound at least once around the bead core to form a slack portion radially outside the bead core, and said securing portion formed by the slack portion, wherein

said single rubber strip is wound, starting from a position under the bead core, towards the axially inside of the tire, and after wound one or more times it is continuously wound toward the radially outside, but from a certain point, it separate from the previous winding and extends radially outwardly along the carcass ply main portion while contacting with an axially inside of the rubber bead apex, so that a distance between a radially outer end of this radially outwardly extending portion and the

bead core is in a range of from 0.05 to 1.0 times the height of the bead core.

7. (amended) ~~The~~ A pneumatic tire ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising

a pair of bead portions each provided therein with a bead core made of windings of at least one wire,

a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions and turned up around the bead core from the axially inside to the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a main portion therebetween,

a rubber bead apex disposed radially outside the bead core and between each said turnup portion and the main portion,

a fiber reinforced rubber spacer interposed between the carcass ply cords and bead core wire,

said fiber reinforced rubber spacer having a securing portion which extends radially outwardly and axially outwardly from the axially inside of the bead core while separating from the bead core but contacting with the rubber bead apex, and

a distance (L1, L2) between an outmost point of said securing portion and the bead core being in a range of from 0.05 to 1.0 times a height of the bead core, wherein

said fiber reinforced rubber spacer is made of a single rubber strip reinforced with organic fibers,

said single rubber strip is wound, starting from a position under the bead core, towards the axially inside of the tire, and after wound one or more times it is continuously wound towards the radially outside, but from a certain point, it separates from the previous winding and extends radially outwardly along the carcass ply main portion while contacting with an axially inside of the rubber bead apex, and

said securing portion is formed by this radially outwardly extending portion.